

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Frequently Asked Questions

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Many households have trouble making ends meet each month; after paying rent, utilities, transportation, and child care, there's often little left over to buy nutritious food. But it doesn't have to be that way. Each month, thousands of households across the state turn to the Nevada State Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) to receive assistance in the form of SNAP benefits to help feed their families. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is available to individuals, families, elderly and/or disabled persons who meet specific income, resource and other requirements. Read on to learn how you can receive help if you qualify.

SNAP Questions

What is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)?

Where do I apply for SNAP benefits?

Aren't SNAP benefits only for people who are on welfare?

We have a hard time buying food each month, but I would be really embarrassed to have my neighbors see me use SNAP benefits.

How do I apply if I am in a domestic violence center for abused persons and will my whereabouts be kept confidential?

Do I have to be a United States citizen to get help?

What if I don't have a family?

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What happens once I get to the Welfare office?

If I receive SNAP benefits can I qualify for other food programs?

How soon will I get benefits?

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SNAP Answers

What is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)? [Â](#) [Â](#) ([Return to Questions](#))

It's a federally funded program to help low-income families buy nutritious food from authorized retailers. SNAP benefits are available to qualifying families, elderly people, and single adults.

Where do I apply for SNAP benefits? Â Â (Return to Questions)

You can go to your local welfare office to pick up or file an application; OR you may request an application be mailed to you. The application may be mailed, dropped off or faxed to the local Welfare Office and may be used to apply for any and all programs listed on the form. If you reside on a Nevada Indian Reservation or Colony you may also check with the Tribal Social Service Office or Health Clinics for application information.

For an application form that you can print out from your computer and fill out at home, follow the links below for the applications

Application Forms

Application-Related Forms Available on-line

Application Form (2905-EG)

Application Information Sheet (2522-EE)

Change Reporting Form (FS/TANF & Medicaid) (Form 2584)

Aren't SNAP benefits only for people who are on welfare? Â Â (Return to Questions)

No, that's a myth. Many working people both single and with families, use SNAP benefits to make ends meet, as do many people who are elderly or disabled. The truth is, about 80 percent of the people who receive SNAP benefits are not on welfare.

We have a hard time buying food each month, but I would be really embarrassed to have my neighbors see me use SNAP benefits. Â Â (Return to Questions)

Nevada issues SNAP benefits using an EBT account for each household. The benefits are accessed with a Nevada Quest Card which looks like a debit/credit card at the point of food purchase. This makes shopping with SNAP benefits easier than ever and most people will not know you are using SNAP benefits.

How do I apply if I am in a domestic violence center for abused persons and will my whereabouts be kept confidential? Â Â (Return to Questions)

You may file an application at the local Welfare office in person, through the mail, by fax or through many domestic violence advocacy organizations. Most advocacy organizations have a supply of applications and are able to assist you with completing and submitting them to the local Welfare office. You may also choose to appoint a domestic violence advocacy organization/person as an Authorized Representative, which allows them to apply on your behalf.

Federal and state regulations prohibit the disclosure of information pertaining to you and your child(ren). All information concerning you is confidential and your location will not be released.

Do I have to be a United States citizen to get help? [Return to Questions](#)

What if I don't have a family? [Return to Questions](#)

If you're an adult between the ages of 18 through 49 and you don't have children you must work 20 hours per week or meet other work requirements. If you don't do those things, you're limited to three months of SNAP benefits in a three-year period. Exceptions are made for people who aren't required to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training program and for people who live in counties with a high unemployment or in a labor surplus area. Check with your local welfare office about these exemptions.

What are the income guidelines? [Return to Questions](#)

Most SNAP applicants must not have more than the gross and net income limits. Gross income is your income before taxes and other deductions; net income is what's left over after allowable deductions. Households with at least one member who's disabled or age 60 or older only have to meet the net income limit.

Persons who are categorically eligible for SNAP due to receipt of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), General Assistance and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are not required to have their income compared to the gross and net income poverty levels.

The table below shows the monthly gross and net income limits and maximum allotment.

SNAP Income Test/Allotments

October 1, 2008

Household

Size
Maximum Gross

130% of Poverty
Maximum Net

100% of Poverty
Maximum

Allotment

1
\$1,127
\$ 867
\$ 176

2
1,517
1,167
323

3
1,907
1,467
463

4
2,297
1,767
588

5
2,687
2,067
698

6
3,077
2,367
838

7
3,467
2,667
926

8
3,857
2,967
1,058

Each Additional Person
+390
+300

+132

What about things I own, such as a car? Â Â (Return to Questions)

You may have assets of up to \$2,000. If at least one household member is 60 or older or disabled, \$3,000 in assets is allowed.

The following are examples of some items not counted toward your household's asset limit:

- one home and the surrounding property (homestead);
- income-producing property; and
- personal effects, such as clothes, jewelry, furnishings, and household goods. Pets are not counted as a resource.

However, the following are examples of some items which are counted towards your household's asset limit:

- Some vehicles worth more than \$4,650 (the first vehicle is exempt and other exemptions may apply for one or more additional vehicles)
- Checking and savings accounts, certificates of deposits, stocks, and bonds.
- Recreational vehicles and property other than that listed above.

Am I allowed any deductions from my income for my expenses? Â Â (Return to Questions)

The following are deducted from your income:

- \$144 from your gross monthly income (a standard deduction) up to \$197 depending upon the household size.
- If working, 20 percent of your gross monthly earned income.
- Deduction for actual child care or care for an incapacitated adult expenses so you can work or attend school or training.
- Up to \$446 in shelter costs. This includes rent or mortgage payments, up to \$274 for utilities, and in some cases \$11 for a phone.

- Child support payments which are court ordered (legally obligated) and actually paid.
- Individuals age 60 or older or those receiving Supplemental Security or Social Security disability income may deduct un-reimbursed medical expenses of more than \$35 a month. They also may be given a higher shelter deduction.

SNAP Deductions

October 1, 2008

Standard Deduction

Based on

Household Size

Household Size

1 - 3

Household Size

4

Household Size

5

Household Size

6 or more

\$144

\$147

\$172

\$197

Maximum

Shelter

Deduction
Standard

Utility

Allowance
Telephone

Allowance
Homeless

Shelter

Deduction
Dependent

Care

Deduction

\$446

\$274 SUA

\$227 LUA

\$53 IUA

\$11

\$143

Actual Cost

What's the most help I can expect? [^](#) [^](#) (Return to Questions)

The maximum amount of SNAP benefits you can receive each month depends on how many people are in your household and your net income after deductions. Refer to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Income Test/Allotments table.

How do you figure out the exact amount my family will receive? [^](#) [^](#) (Return to Questions)

The amount of SNAP benefits varies based on household size and the income available after all allowable deductions are made.

You may also visit the Food USA web site for an eligibility screening test. This site does not belong to the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services; it is for information purposes only.

After reviewing this information, contact your local Welfare Office to determine your eligibility. Only that office can tell you for sure if you qualify for benefits.

Can I fax or mail my application to the Welfare office? [^](#) [^](#) (Return to Questions)

Applications may be mailed or faxed. If the application is faxed, the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services requires the original form be submitted at the interview or by mail.

What should I bring with me when I apply and/or am interviewed? Â Â (Return to Questions)

Division of Welfare and Supportive Services staff need to verify the information you provide, so it's helpful to bring the following items.

- A Nevada drivers license or other Identification (ID) (a picture ID is not required)
- A Social Security card or proof you have applied for one
- Proof of income, such as pay stubs or a statement from your employer, award letter from Social Security etc.
- Proof of child care expenses or expenses related to care for a disabled household member
- Proof of child support payments made by you or another household member to someone outside of your household (court order and receipts)
- Bank statements and other proof of assets such as vehicle ownership
- Proof of rent and utilities, such as rent receipt, utility bills
- Proof of un-reimbursed medical expenses for elderly or disabled household members

Your application will be date stamped at the office and an interview time scheduled. Elderly or disabled individuals are not required to have an in person interview and their interviews are conducted on the phone. If you meet certain expedited service conditions you may be seen the same or next work day.

What if I miss the interview appointment? Â Â (Return to Questions)

It is important to keep the interview or report any hardships with completing an interview. It is up to you to reschedule missed appointments. If you do not appear for a pre-scheduled interview and no appointment to complete the interview is rescheduled, your application will be denied at the end of 30 days from the date of application. Once denied, you have to reapply.

What happens once I get to the Welfare office? Â Â (Return to Questions)

If appearing for an interview, you will meet with a caseworker who will determine if you qualify for benefits, and the amount. You will also receive information from the caseworker or other staff about job requirements/opportunities and your responsibilities.

If you are submitting a new application or reapplying for benefits, an interview will be scheduled and you will be given an appointment date and time.

If I receive SNAP benefits can I qualify for other food programs? Â Â (Return to Questions)

SNAP clients are eligible to receive additional food through the USDA State Food Distribution Program. Information regarding this program can be obtained at the welfare office nearest you or by calling (800)992-0900 ext. 2828 for times/locations. If you live in the Las Vegas area, you may call (702) 320-2093. Commodity food is distributed in January, March, May, July, September and November of each year. School age children are eligible for the School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs (application for these programs is made through the school.) The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides additional food supplements.

Individuals who receive SSI from a cash-out state or receive food commodities from an Indian Reservation food program may not participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at the same time. This is considered duplicate assistance.

How soon will I get benefits? Â Â (Return to Questions)

Your SNAP benefits will be authorized or be notified you are ineligible for the program within 30 days after you turn in your application. If you are eligible for expedited service, you will be authorized SNAP benefits within a few days, but no later than seven (7) days from application.

How do I find more information about food nutrition? Â Â (Return to Questions)

The following links can be useful in finding more information:

University of Nevada - Reno - Southern Area Cooperative Extension

University of Nevada - Reno - Western Area Cooperative Extension

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Nutrition Assistance Programs

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